

Gadgets galore at hardware show

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY
The Associated Press

We recently returned from the 60th annual National Hardware Convention in Las Vegas, where more than 3,100 exhibitors displayed their latest and greatest offerings to 30,000 hardware industry attendees. It was at the new products pavilion that we found the newest and most interesting products. Here's a look at some:

When they're on sale, you can usually purchase a 25-foot retractable measuring tape for under \$10. So, you are really going to be surprised when we suggest that you look into the new Autotape from Black and Decker that sells for a whopping \$25. It's a bit larger than a conventional 25-foot measuring tape — making it more bulky and a bit more difficult to handle — at least until you get used to it. What's so cool about it is that the tape measure ejects automatically at the press of a button — and it doesn't snap back when you press

the retract button.

Why an electric tape measure? Very often when making a measurement we find one hand occupied holding something or other. Sending the measuring blade across a full sheet of plywood, for example, is as easy as pressing that button we just mentioned. This may not be a tool "for absolutely everyone," but we know of no serious do-it-yourselfer who won't want one. For more information check out the Autotape at www.blackanddecker.com.

Inventors across the globe have come up with every kind of brow, tool and hat-mounted lighting device imaginable. Unfortunately, you can't always get your head into alignment with your work when in unusually tight places. Just because you can see it doesn't mean that a head- or hat-mounted light will illuminate the task at hand.

One solution for any and every "task at hand" is the newly released Illumiglove

— a lighted work glove from Craftsman. For about \$30 you can own your very own pair of battery operated, LED penlight gloves — and each one comes with its own on-off switch. The light is mounted along side the index finger and the on-off switch is located on the back of the hand. For more, you can go to www.craftsman.com.

When it comes to our houseplants, we hate fumbling with fertilizer. You've got to open the fertilizer container, measure out the appropriate ingredients, mix it into the water — and then clean up the mess. Well, there's no longer any reason for all the mess, fuss or bother. There is a new water can on the market that does all that work automatically. The Aquavor is a watering can with its own built-in, removable fertilizer dispenser.

Pushing the fertilizer dispenser plunger a few times is all it takes to inject just the right amount of chemi-

cal. The next step is to fill the can with water, allowing nature and physics to mix the concoction. You are now ready to water and fertilize your plants all at the same time — and there is no mess and no cleanup. For more information on the Aquavor, check out their Web site at: www.aquavor.com.

Putting up a small gouge in a wall or ceiling can be a pain. Go out to the workshop, get the can of putty. Then, find a screwdriver to open the can, find a putty knife to mix the putty to get it out of the can, apply the putty and so on. Why does something so simple have to be so complicated? Well, with a container of the new Erase-a-hole from Elite Products, putting a hole is quick, easy and anything but complicated. Erase-a-hole is a putty of firm consistency that comes in a container that looks very much like a stick of deodorant right down to the dial at the bottom of the vessel.

Gadgets galore

Here are some interesting new products featured at the 60th annual National Hardware Convention.

The Illum-A-Glove from Craftsman offers light and visibility for every "task at hand." The battery-operated gloves are equipped with bright LED bulbs, each mounted alongside the index finger with an on-off switch located on the back of the hand.



The AutoTape from Black and Decker is an alternative to a traditional retractable measuring tape. The tape measure ejects automatically at the press of a button.

The AquaVor is a watering can with its own built-in, removable fertilizer dispenser. Simply push the fertilizer dispenser a few times and it will inject the correct amount of chemical needed.



All you do is open the top, wipe the putty over the hole and used the edge of the container to wipe away the

excess. For more information on this \$7.50 work-saver, log on to www.solutioncatalog.com.



Handyman CONNECTION
SAVE \$50
On Any Work over \$250
Expires 7/10/05



Handyman CONNECTION
SAVE \$25
On Any Work Over \$100
Expires 7/10/05

Call Now For Your FREE Estimate!

- Carpentry • Minor Plumbing • Painting
- Ceramic Tile • Decks • Drywall • Minor Electrical
- Kitchen & Bath • More

Since 1998



Handyman CONNECTION
231-947-3573
877-899-9369
www.handymanconnection.com



Call Now!
Insured & Bonded • Independently Owned & Operated
614-802775-HM

EXPERIENCED CRAFTSMEN **QUALITY WORKMANSHIP**



BREEZE HILL GREENHOUSE

7230 Harry's Road • 941-7295
3 miles W. of Tom's West Bay on M-72,
N. on Harry's Rd. 8/10 mile
Traverse City

614-802795-HM

Do You Need...

- Roof • Windows
- Siding • Furnace

or other repairs?

Deferred loans and 1%, 2% & 3% loans available up to \$25,000 for low-moderate income home owners in Grand Traverse County



For more information call Virginia Coulter at 922-4862

Hearing Impaired Contact The Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777

Equal Housing Opportunity

614-802795-HM

THE BEDROOM COMPANY'S BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR! LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED!



Summer Value Days
mattress sale!

GOING on NOW!

12 MONTHS
NO INTEREST
NO PAYMENTS

FREE
DELIVERY
& SET-UP

FREE
HAUL AWAY
OF OLD
BEDDING

Spring Air®
Superb Plush or Firm
\$599
Queen Set

Visco Memory
Foam
Pillow Top
\$799
Queen Set

Spring Air®
Caress PillowTop
\$699
Queen Set

Twin Set\$499
Full Set\$579
King Set\$899

Back Supporter
Malibu Plush or Firm
\$699
Queen Set

Twin Set\$549
Full Set\$599
King Set\$999

ComfortFlex
Windsong Plush or Firm
\$799
Queen Set

Twin Set\$599
Full Set\$699
King Set\$1099

Beverly Hills
EuroTop
\$999
Queen Set

Twin Set\$799
Full Set\$899
King Set\$1299

FEATURING OUR FOAM ENCASED WIRELESS EDGE™ & NEVERTURN™ ADVANTAGE

THE BEDROOM COMPANY

Across from Grand Traverse Mall • 275 N. U.S. 31 South • Traverse City, MI • 231-941-1191

OPEN
10-6 Mon.-Fri.
10-5 Sat.
Closed Sunday

THE BEDROOM COMPANY'S BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR! LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED!